

# Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy - 2020-21

## PART I. DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS

Each school district must establish the district's expectations for parental involvement. [Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.]

The **Bismarck Public School District** agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the Title I requirements, and include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
- The school district will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its district plan.
- In carrying out the Title I parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the district plan for Title I is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the Department of Public Instruction.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools. (Only applicable for districts with Title I allocations greater than \$500,000.)
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

*Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—*

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

## **PART II. DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY REQUIRED COMPONENTS**

1. The **Bismarck Public School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district parental involvement plan:
  - *A Parent Advisory Council will be formed and will meet annually to review the district parental involvement policy and each school buildings' parent involvement budget/activities*
  - *Distribute the Title I District Parental Involvement Policy annually to all parents and schools*
  - *Provide meeting minutes and the district Parent Involvement Policy on the Bismarck Public Schools website for all parents and schools to review*
  - *Provide a Parent Involvement Coordinator at each Title I school*
  
2. The **Bismarck Public School District** will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
  - *Title I Parent Involvement Coordinators and Title I staff/schools will actively support parents to promote efforts that increase the level and quality of parent involvement*
  - *Build Awareness of community resources with parents*
  - *Ensure that the Title I budget provides funds for parent involvement activities*
  - *Provide support and access to student achievement data ex. (Powerschool and parent-teacher conferences)*
  - *Provide opportunity for Title I staff and/or parents to attend parent involvement activities*
  
3. The **Bismarck Public School District** will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
  - A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions as described below:
    - *Provide parents biannually with an explanation of student achievement data from district assessments (ex. AIMES), Measures of academic progress (MAP), and/or North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA)*
    - *Provide biweekly "Friday Fliers" newsletters through email/website to keep families informed about school and community events*
    - *Inform parents that the state content standards and achievement standards are on the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) website <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/Standards/>*
    - *Title I authorized representatives, coordinator, teachers and parents may attend the North Dakota Fall Educators Conference for current Title I information*

- B. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their childrens' academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:
- *Providing parents with strategies for working with children at home*
  - *Accessing Powerschool and email communication with school personnel*
  - *Inviting parents to annual parent meeting in the school buildings*
  - *Access to Title I resources on the Bismarck Public Schools(BPS) website*
  - *Parent information/resources are available to parents in each school*
  - *Schedule speakers/consultants/authors for families and/or staff to foster parental involvement*
  - *Survey parents annually about specific needs and program improvements and implement needed changes to school plan*
  - *Each school maintains a school website and resources for parents*
  - *Provide regular communication to parents through classroom newsletters, emails, social media, phone contacts and/or texting*
- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I schools and parents, educate its teachers, student services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by
- *Title I Parent Involvement Coordinators will actively participate on each school's Parent Involvement planning committee*
  - *Distribute Title I information from Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for principals, teachers, and parents.*
  - *Title I Parent Involvement Coordinators/staff/teachers will collaborate with district reading/math and instructional coaches on increasing parent involvement*
  - *Collaborate with parents and specialists to provide intervention for students as needed*
  - *Partner with BPS Community Relations Department to communicate with parents and staff on events, workshops, and etc that will take place*
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with BECEP, Head Start, Camp Edventure, and conduct other activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:
- *All BPS students can participate in Camp Edventure*
  - *Coordinating transfer of information at Principals meetings*
  - *Collaborate with Bismarck Early Childhood Education Program (BECEP)on providing smooth transitions into Kindergarten*
  - *Coordinate with BECEP in informing parents about Kindergarten activities being held in the elementary schools*

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that Title I information related to the school and parent—programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- *Offer parent-friendly newsletters in multiple languages as needed*
- *Reviewing Title I information at least yearly for content and readability with Title I parent advisory committee and district Title I staff/coordinators*
- *Survey results will be provided to all Title I parents per building*
- *Providing translations if necessary, ex. ADA disclaimer on all Title I distributed material*
- *Directing parents to the Title I link on the Bismarck Public Schools website*
- *District will distribute the dispute resolution and building profile notifications to all parents in a readable format*

4. The **Bismarck Public School District** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I under the following other programs: BECEP, Head Start, Middle Schools, by

- *Title I parent involvement coordinators/school staff/specialists and BECEP staff will collaborate to provide a smooth transition for children from preschool to elementary school*
- *Monthly district leadership team meetings occur to support the transferring of parent involvement information across the district*
- *Provide all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students a tour at middle schools*
- *Provide meetings with middle schools, as needed, to help with smooth transitions for students*

5. The **Bismarck Public School District** will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

- *Annually review the district parent involvement policy with the district Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC)*
- *Communicate Title I PAC recommendations to local school staff and parents through each parent involvement coordinator*
- *Based on recommendations from the PAC, Title I schools will make revisions as necessary*
- *The district and Title I schools will post activities, events, and important information on social media, email, print and/or through text messages*
- *Title I schools will survey parents about Title I and utilize the results to implement changes in each school*

6. The **Bismarck Public School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:

- *Schools report building goals and objectives to parents through newsletters, e-mails, online and/or parent meetings*
- *Schoolwide Title I planning teams will involve parents*
- *Parent and teacher surveys are reviewed annually and the results will be used to make recommendations and improvement*

### **PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

The District Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities:

- *Parent involvement coordinators have been hired with Title I part A funds to assist/coordinate with Title I parent events*
- *Educational components will be included at Title I parent events*
- *Utilize Title I funding for childcare related costs, as needed, to support parent involvement activities*
- *Maintain a parent advisory council to provide input on parent involvement district policy*
- *Engage parents in a variety of involvement opportunities such as volunteering, parenting, communicating, collaborating with community, learning at home, and decision making*

### **PART IV. ADOPTION**

This District Parental Involvement Policy has been developed and agreed upon with parents of children participating in Title I programs, as evidenced by the Parent Advisory Council meeting held on May 3, 2019. The meeting agenda and minutes are available upon request or are posted on the district website.

This policy was originally adopted by the Bismarck Public School District on December 12, 2005. It is revised annually and recently updated on April 17, 2020. This policy will be in effect for the **2020-2021** school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I children on or before December 2020.



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*Title I Authorized Representative*